

HPAI: Biosecurity Recommendations for Dairy Farmers

The progression of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) requires heightened biosecurity measures at the farm to prevent its introduction. The recommendations also help prepare to respond to contain the disease if needed.

Biosecurity is Key

In Canada, the on-farm quality assurance program proAction® incorporates guidance on biosecurity, that can help mitigate risk of H5N1 virus introduction or other pathogens.



Click on the logo for more information.



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency provides current information on HPAI in livestock, including what producers can do and the most appropriate measures for guarding against H5N1. [Click here](#)

Prevention

Avoid unnecessary animal movement.

- Report cow movement to **DairyTrace** every day or every second day for rapid traceback and containment.
- Keep closed herd if possible.
- Minimize entry of new animals into your herd.
- If bringing in a new cow- or one returning from outside event:
 1. Isolate for 30 days.
 2. Milk them last before disinfecting the milking system.
 3. Watch for possible symptoms.
 4. Contact your vet to test animal before moving out and again upon return.



Click on the logo for more information.



Restrict number of people in the barn

- Limit barn visitors, ideally to essential services only.
- Keep a visitor log.
- Change boots when entering barns.
- Restrict unnecessary vehicles that move between farms to minimize risk of accidental spread via fomites (contaminated surfaces).
- Prevent birds from accessing water and feed supply; keep in enclosed areas, under roof or covered



Surveillance

Suspect H5N1 in a cow?

Call your vet if cattle have symptoms including a sudden drop in milk, thicker consistency of milk, decrease in feed consumption and drop in rumen motility, dry manure or constipation.

- Isolate immediately.
- Call the veterinarian to evaluate the situation and decide if any testing is warranted.
- Milk separately in the isolated area/Milk last before disinfecting.

- Watch for odd behavior in small animals around the farm.
- Report any sick or dead bird/wildlife on your farm to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative.



Click on the logo for more info.

Containment

- Follow guidance from your provincial authorities as they work to mitigate risks and contain the disease.

Protect yourself

- Wear protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, mask, water-resistant coveralls/apron when handling sick cows.
- Wash clothes, clean and disinfect boots/ coverall/aprons after.
- Take care when handling raw milk for pasteurization to avoid spilling.
- Practice good hand washing hygiene after handling sick cattle or raw milk.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth until after washing hands.



Useful resources:

- CFIA Information on [HPAI in livestock](#)
- Your local office of [Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative \(CWHC\)](#)
- Biosecurity resources: [Preventing an Outbreak: Being Vigilant about Animal Introductions](#)
- Contact your provincial Chief Veterinary Office.

